

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SINGAP 00491 311511Z
ACTION EA-12

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FM AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9527

C O N F I D E N T I A L SINGAPORE 0491

STADIS////////////////////////////////

EA ONLY

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MARR, ETRD
SUBJECT: POLITICO-MILITARY CONSIDERATIONS IN CURRENT TEXTILE
NEGOTIATIONS

1. U.S. GOVERNMENT MEMBERS OF TEXTILE NEGOTIATIONS TEAM APPROACHED DCM JANUARY 31 TO INQUIRE ABOUT POSSIBLE POLITICO-MILITARY IMPLICATIONS OF CURRENT TEXTILE NEGOTIATIONS WITH SINGAPORE GOVERNMENT. ACCORDING TO TEAM MEMBERS, THEIR OFFICE IN WASHINGTON CONTACTED THEM BY PHONE WHILE THEY WERE IN TAIPEI TO SAY THT EA COUNTRY DESK HAD SUGGESTED THAT TEAM SHOULD BE AWARE OF CERTAIN MILITARY MATTERS INVOLVING USG AND SINGAPORE WHICH SHOULD BE TAKEN INTO RONSIDERATION IN ITS NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE GOS. THESE MATTERS COULD NOT BE MENTIONED BY PHONE, AND TEAM APPARENTLY WAS ADVISED TO RAISE QUESTION WITH EMBASSY SINGAPORE.

2. DCM BRIEFLY SUMMARIZED FOR TEAM MEMBERS CURRENT STATE OF US.A SINGAPORE COOPERATION IN SECURITY AFFAIRS. HE NOTED THAT GOS HAD BEEN FORTHCOMING IN VARIOUS AREAS: USE OF BERTHING FACILITIES AT SEMBAWANG, DIEGO GARCIA SUPPLY FLIGHTS, P-3 OVERFLIGHTS, ETC. USG EXPECTED SHORTLY TO SEEK ADDITIONAL COOPERATION FROM GOS IN STAGING P-3 FLIGHTS THROUGH SINGAPORE. DCM OBSERVED THAT WE HAD ALSO BEEN ACCOMMODATING TO GOS AND HAD BECOME PRIMARY SUPPLIER
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OF MILITARY HARDWARE. RECENTLY, HOWEVER, IT HAD BEEN NECESSARY TO TURN DOWN SEVERAL SINGAPORE REQUESTS IN THIS FIELD, INCLUDING ONE --THE I-HAWK-- WHICH GOS CONSIDERED QUITE IMPORTANT.

3. NONE OF THIS HAD ANY DIRECT BEARING ON CURRENT TEXTILE NEGOTIATIONS, DCM ADDED, AND HE WAS NOT QUITE CERTAIN JUST WHAT EA DESK HAD IN MIND. IT WOULD PRESUMABLY ENCOURAGE FURTHER

GOS COOPERATION IN MILITARY AS IN OTHER FIELDS IF SATISFACTORY
TEXTILE AGREEMENT WAS REACHED, OF COURSE, AND WE WERE CERTAINLY
HOPING FOR SUCCESSFUL OUTCOME.

4. COMMENT: IT WOULD HAVE BEEN HELPFUL IF DESK HAD ADVISED US
WHAT IT WISHED TO CONVEY TO TEXTILE NEGOTIATING TEAM RE INTER-
RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN POLITICO-MILITARY AFFAIRS, AND TEXTILE
TALKS. IS FOREGOING WHAT DESK HAD IN MIND? PLEASE ADVISE.
HOLDRIDGE

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